

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled).

2. (canceled).

3. (previously presented) The mechanical fastening system of claim 20 wherein the loop component is made by stretching the non-woven material in the machine direction so as to neck down in the cross machine direction and then attaching the necked
5 non-woven material directly to the elastic substrate while said substrate is stretched in the machine direction so that the loop component has gathers formed therein upon relaxing of the elastic substrate.

4 - 18. (canceled).

19. (currently amended) A mechanical fastening system for an article, comprising:

a loop component mountable on the article and capable of elastic stretching in at least two directions, said loop
5 component being capable of being elastically stretched in at least one of the directions at least about two times a relaxed length of the loop component, said loop component comprising a neck-stretched non-woven material and an elastic substrate, said elastic substrate being elastically stretchable in at least two
10 directions, said non-woven material being attached directly to the elastic substrate; and

a hook component mountable on the article and capable of fastening engagement with the loop component to secure the article in a fastened configuration;

15 whereby when the hook component is juxtaposed and engaged with at least a portion of the loop component, the loop

component is stretchable during limited movement of the loop component relative to the hook component.

20. (previously presented) The mechanical fastening system set forth in claim 19 wherein the loop component has a machine direction and a cross-machine direction, the non-woven material being necked in the cross-machine direction of the loop component.

21. (currently amended) The mechanical fastening system set forth in claim 19 in combination with the article, said article being for personal wear and comprising an inner layer for contact with a wearer's skin, at least a portion of the inner layer being liquid permeable, an outer layer in opposed relation with the inner layer, and an absorbent layer disposed between the inner layer and the outer layer, the loop component being formed separate from and ~~attached to~~ mounted on the article.

22. (currently amended) The combination set forth in claim 21 wherein the loop component is formed separate from and ~~attached to~~ mounted on the outer layer of the article.

23. (currently amended) The combination set forth in claim 21 wherein the article further comprises longitudinally opposite end regions, the loop component being ~~attached to~~ mounted on the article generally at one of said end regions and the hook component being ~~attached to~~ mounted on the article generally at the opposite one of said end regions.

24. (canceled).

25. (new) A mechanical fastening system as set forth in claim 19 wherein said loop component is capable of being elastically stretched in at least one of the directions at least about two and a half times a relaxed length of the loop component.